

Painting, Coating, and Decorating Workers

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What They Do

Painting, Coating, and Decorating Workers paint, coat, or decorate various articles such as furniture, glass, plateware, pottery, jewelry, cakes, toys, books, or leather. Many paints and coatings have a dual purpose of enhancing product appearance and providing protection from weather or corrosion. Painting and Coating Workers may assemble fixtures for coating and load and unload fixtures into coating machines. They sometimes use equipment that is controlled by computerized panel boards. Painting, Coating, and Decorating Workers examine finished surfaces of workpieces to verify conformance to specifications and retouch defective areas. They cut out sections of surface material to be inlaid with decorative pieces, using a pattern and knife or scissors. Painting, Coating, and Decorating Workers may place coated workpieces in an oven or dryer for a specified time to dry or harden a finish. They melt or heat coating materials to a specified temperature. Painting, Coating, and Decorating Workers select and mix ingredients to prepare coating substances according to specifications, using a paddle or mechanical mixer. They also perform routine troubleshooting and machine maintenance.

Tasks

- ▶ Apply coating, such as paint, ink, or lacquer, to protect or decorate workpiece surface, using spray gum, pen, or brush.
- ▶ Immerse workpiece into coating material for specified time.
- ▶ Position and glue decorative pieces in cutout section, following pattern.
- ▶ Read job order and inspect workpiece to determine work procedure and materials required.
- ▶ Conceal blemishes in workpiece, such as nicks and dents, using filler, such as putty.
- ▶ Rinse coated workpiece to remove excess coating material or to facilitate setting of finish coat on workpiece.
- ▶ Drain or wipe workpieces to remove excess coating material or to facilitate setting of finish coat on workpiece.

*Detailed descriptions of these occupations may be found in the Occupational Information Network (O*NET) at online.onetcenter.org.*

Important Skills, Knowledge, and Abilities

- ▶ **Monitoring** — Monitoring/Assessing performance of yourself, other individuals, or organizations to make improvements or take corrective action.
- ▶ **Equipment Selection** — Determining the kind of tools and equipment needed to do a job.

Painting, Coating, and Decorating Workers

- ▶ **Production and Processing** — Knowledge of raw materials, production processes, quality control, costs, and other techniques for maximizing the effective manufacture and distribution of goods.
- ▶ **Manual Dexterity** — The ability to quickly move your hand, your hand together with your arm, or your two hands to grasp, manipulate, or assemble objects.
- ▶ **Information Ordering** — The ability to arrange things or actions in a certain order or pattern according to a specific rule or set of rules (e.g., patterns of numbers, letters, words, pictures, mathematical operations).
- ▶ **Near Vision** — The ability to see details at close range (within a few feet of the observer).
- ▶ **Visual Color Discrimination** — The ability to match or detect differences between colors, including shades of color and brightness.
- ▶ **Arm-Hand Steadiness** — The ability to keep your hand and arm steady while moving your arm or while holding your arm and hand in one position.
- ▶ **Finger Dexterity** — The ability to make precisely coordinated movements of the fingers of one or both hands to grasp, manipulate, or assemble very small objects.

Work Environment

Painting, Coating, and Decorating Workers usually work indoors in special ventilated booths. They may be exposed to dangerous fumes from paint and coating solutions. However, the risk is minimal if Painters wear masks or respirators that cover their noses and mouths and adhere to safety rules. They may stand for long periods of time. Painting, Coating, and Decorating Workers generally work a 40-hour week.

California's Job Outlook and Wages

The California outlook and wage below represent the occupation across all industries.

Standard Occupational Classification	Estimated Number of Workers 2004	Estimated Number of Workers 2014	Average Annual Openings	2006 Wage Range (per hour)
Painting, Coating, and Decorating Workers				
51-9123	3,200	3,500	110	\$8.38 to \$13.58

Wages do not reflect self-employment.

Average annual openings include new jobs plus net replacements.

Source: www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov, Employment Projections by Occupation and OES Employment & Wages by Occupation, Labor Market Information Division, Employment Development Department.

Trends

Employment of Painting, Coating, and Decorating Workers is expected to grow slower than average for all occupations over the 2004-2014 period. However, opportunities will continue to arise from the need to replace the Painting, Coating, and Decorating Workers who retire or leave the labor force for other reasons.

Painting, Coating, and Decorating Workers

Training/Requirements/Apprenticeships

Painting, Coating, and Decorating Workers usually follow one of the following training paths:

- ▶ High school diploma preferred
- ▶ Adult Education
- ▶ Vocational school
- ▶ Community College programs or certificates
- ▶ Extensive on-the-job training

A high school diploma is not required, but it is helpful. Many community colleges and vocational or technical schools offer instructional programs that enhance employment and advancement opportunities.

Recommended High School Course Work

High School preparation courses in art, accounting, chemistry, general business, business mathematics, and computer technology are helpful. Accounting and business classes are particularly helpful for those who plan to enter self-employment.

Where Do I Find the Job?

Direct application to employers remains one of the most effective job search methods.

Use the *Search for Employers by Industry* feature on the *Career Center* page at www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov to locate employers in your area. Search under the following manufacturing industry names to get a list of private firms and their addresses:

- ▶ All Other Miscellaneous Manufacturing
- ▶ Games, Toys, and Children's Vehicles
- ▶ Gaskets, Packings, and Sealing Devices
- ▶ Institutional Furniture
- ▶ Jewelry (except Costume)
- ▶ Jewelers' Material and Lapidary Work
- ▶ Musical Instrument
- ▶ Nonupholstered Wood Household Furniture
- ▶ Sign Manufacturing
- ▶ Sporting & Athletic Goods
- ▶ Wood Kitchen Cabinets and Countertops

Search these **yellow page** headings for listings of private firms:

- ▶ Coating Contractors
- ▶ Coatings, Protective
- ▶ Decorative Painting
- ▶ Painting Consultants
- ▶ Painting Contractors, Decorative/Faux Finishes

Where Can the Job Lead?

Experienced Painting, Coating, and Decorating Workers with leadership ability may become team leaders or supervisors. Those who acquire practical experience, college, or other formal training may become sales or technical representatives for chemical or paint companies.

Other Sources of Information

National Association of Manufacturers
www.nam.org

National Paint & Coatings Association
www.paint.org

